

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 OIC-04 SPM-01

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R 130949Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8921

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS 5292

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECA, SPOP

SUBJECT: ECA - CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS, MAY 6 - 10

SUMMARY: CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS REVIEWED ECA POPULATION PROGRAM WITH HEAVY ATTENTION TO TRAINING AND PROBLEMS IN NEW DEMOGRAPHIC INSTITUTIONS IN YAOUNDE AND ACCRA. AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAM IN EFFECT IN 22 COUNTRIES, BUT SEVERAL HAVE HAD TO DELAY HOLDING CENSUS UNTIL 1975. AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAM HAS CLEAR PRECEDENCE OVER WORLD FERTILITY BUT NO HOSTILITY TO SURVEY EVINCES. ENTIRE CONFERENCE HARMONIOUS YET OPPOSING VIEWS OPENLY EXPRESSED. CONFERENCE'S FINAL ACT WAS TO PREVIEW THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION FOR ECA CONSULTATION ON WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA MAY 13 - 16. AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS REACTED FAVORABLY TO PLAN, CALLING IT A FLEXIBLE DOCUMENT. RESERVATIONS WERE MAINLY FROM FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, AND EVEN THEIR OBJECTIONS WERE MAINLY TO (A) TERMS, TONES, AND INTERPRETATIONS WHICH THEY FELT WERE "REVIVING MALTHUSIANISM", AND (B) OVER-EMPHASIS ON POPULATION PROGRAMS INCLUDING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICANS SHOWED BALANCED AND INFORMED SELF-INTEREST IN PLAN WHICH WOULD SERVE ANY REGION WELL. IF THE MAY 13 - 16 CONSULTATION TAKES CUE FROM AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS UN

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DRAFT, WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION MAY BE IN ON MORE BOUQUETS

IN ADDIS AND BUCHAREST. END SUMMARY.

1. ECA'S SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS DREW EXPERTS FROM 24 MEMBER STATES. NIGERIA AND MAGHREB COUNTRIES WERE MOST NOTABLE ABSENTEES. THUS, MOROCCAN AND TUNISIAN SUPPORT ABSENT, BUT ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN DIVERSIONS MISSING ALSO. LEADERSHIP FELL TO SENEGAL AND FRENCH BLACK AFRICA, BUT THEY KEPT IN CHECK BY GHANAIAI AND NIGERIAN SECRETARIAT (ECA AND UNNY) MEMBERS AND SINGULAR DEMOGRAPHIC AND PARLIAMENTARY SKILLS OF LESOTHO'S PARTICIPANT, R. K. SOM, DIRECTOR OF ECA POPULATION CENTER, MYSTERIOUSLY LEFT TOWN ON EVE OF TWO WEEKS OF MOST IMPORTANT POPULATION MEETINGS ECA HAS EVER SPONSORED. (BELIEVED TO BE IN LONDON FOR PHYSICAL CHECK-UP.) SOM'S GHANAIAI DEPUTY CHANSAH FILLED HIS SHOES WITH GOOD SPIRITS, GOOD SENSE, AND SINCERE INTEREST IN POPULATION PROGRAMS. OTHERS CONTRIBUTING TO GOOD ATMOSPHERE WERE SECOND STRINGERS FROM POPULATION DIVISION UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO AND FAO. PARTICULARLY NOTABLE WAS THEIR AWARENESS OF COMMON LINKS, INTER-DEPENDENCIES, AND LACK OF ORGANIZATIONAL RIVALRY. (WHO'S DR THOMAS WAS EXCEPTION, TRYING TO OVERWHELM GOVERNMENTS AS WELL WITH AN INSISTENT MESSAGE THAT POPULATION IS ALWAYS SUBSUMED UNDER HEALTH. EVEN THOUGH MOST AFRICANS ARE PRO - MATERNAL - CHILD - HEALTH, THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT HIS PROPOSALS TO SUBSTITUTE "FAMILY HEALTH" FOR "FAMILY PLANNING".)

2. RELATING BACK TO PREVIOUS ECA MEETINGS, CONFERENCE ADOPTED DRAFT RESOLUTION OF 1972 WORKING GROUP ON FERTILITY LEVELS AND DIFFERENTIALS. THIS RESOLUTION CALLED FOR BETTER POPULATION STATISTICS OF ALL KINDS, ASSERTED THAT ADOPTION OF FAMILY PLANNING IS INDIVIDUAL QUESTION FOR EACH SECTION, AND RECOMMENDED THAT FAMILY PLANNING BECOME INTEGRAL PART OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND, IN PARTICULAR, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES.

3. CASE STUDIES OF RELATIONSHIP OF POPULATION DYNAMICS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE NEARING COMPLETION IN NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND WILL BE PRESENTED TO POLICY MAKERS IN SEMINARS BEGINNING 1975. IT WAS NOTED THAT AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN THEIR POPULATION SITUATIONS. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF PLANNED STUDIES, OF REFUGEES, MARRIAGE, AND MORTALITY, AND PLANNED AFRICAN POPULATION JOURNAL, HAVE BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS AND PERSONNEL.

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4. EXTENDED DISCUSSION REGARDING NEW UN TRAINING INSTITUTES IN GHANA AND CAMEROON. STRONGEST RECOMMENDATION OF CONFERENCE WAS THAT COMPETITIVE ENTRANCE EXAM AT CAMEROON INSTITUTE, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN RELATIVELY FEW AFRICAN STUDENTS BEING ADMITTED, BE ABOLISHED. OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED WERE DRAFT MANUAL OF DEMOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS NEEDING SPECIAL DEFINITIONS IN AFRICA, NEEDED DESPITE EXISTENCE OF OTHER MORE GENERAL DICTIONARIES;

ROUGH DRAFT OF DEMOGRAPHIC MANUAL FOR MIDDLE-LEVEL TRAINING;
AND TEACHING AND FIELD MANUAL FOR CONDUCTING PILOT STUDIES OF
FERTILITY AND INFANT MORTALITY.

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SUBJECT: ECA - CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS, MAY 6 - 10

5. AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAM, ENCOMPASSING 22 COUNTRIES, 15 OF WHICH NEVER HAVE HAD CENSUSES BEFORE, IS DEVELOPING SATISFACTORILY IF NOT SMOOTHLY. SEVEN OF THE 22 CENSUSES ARE BEING DELAYED TO 1975 DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN RECRUITING PERSONNEL, LOGISTICAL DEFICIENCIES, AND POOR COORDINATION. DESPITE THESE DIFFICULTIES, ALL THESE CENSUSES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE 1976.

6. AFRICAN HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS PROGRAM, WHICH PROPOSES CREATION OF ONGOING MULTI-SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVE SURVEYS FROM 1975 - 1979 IN AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE, IS PRESENTLY IN CONCEPTUAL, PRE-FUNDING STAGE. IT IS INTENDED TO FOLLOW UP AFRICAN CENSUS PROGRAM AND IT WAS STIPULATED THAT SURVEYS PROGRAM SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH CENSUS ACTIVITIES.

7. WORLD FERTILITY SURVEY WAS DISCUSSED, BUT DID NOT GENERATE MUCH ENTHUSIASM AMONG DELEGATES. RESERVATIONS WERE EXPRESSED

REGARDING THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF CORE QUESTIONNAIRE, AND AGAIN IT WAS STIPULATED THAT WFS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH ONGOING CENSUS ACTIVITY.

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8. WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION PREVIEWED FOR FIRST TIME IN AFRICA ON MAY 9. PREVAILING VIEW WAS THAT IT IS WELL DRAFTED, FLEXIBLE DOCUMENT WHICH ACCOMMODATED VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS. SENEGAL CHAIRMAN SAVANE OBJECTED THAN PLAN PURPORTING TO BE "ESSENTIAL COMPONENT" OF OTHER UN STRATEGIES WAS "RETURN TO MALTHUSIANISM". ECA'S GHANSAH RETORTED "PLAN DOES NOT HAVE CONNOTATION CHAIRMAN TRYING TO IMPUTE; RATHER IT TIES POPULATION PLANNING TO DEVELOPMENT." TOGO LATER DETECTED MALTHUSIAN INTERPRETATION IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN WHICH SUGGESTS DECLINE IN MORTALITY MAY BE PREREQUISITE FOR DECLINE IN FERTILITY AND ASKED THAT OTHER VIEW BE PRESENTED AS WELL. LESOTHO SUGGESTED ELIMINATING ENTIRE PARAGRAPH, BUT OTHERS CONSIDERED IT BASED ON FACT. SENEGAL CONCERNED OVER PLAN'S CALL FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION ACTIVITIES, BUT IT WAS POINTED OUT ONLY TWO PERCENT NOW GOES TO POPULATION AND REST TO DEVELOPMENT. SENEGAL'S INSISTENCE IT SHOULD BE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE DEFLATED BY UNFPA'S REMINDER THAT 1972 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON FUND PROVIDES IN PARAGRAPH SIX ADDITIONALITY STIPULATION. UPPER VOLTA SAID (I) UNFPA ALREADY INVOLVED IN SERIES OF CONCERNS LINKED TO POPULATION, (II) SOME STATES PREFERRED TO GIVE POPULATION AID AND THAT IS THEIR RIGHT, AND (III) "IF WE SAY TOO MUCH DONORS WILL BE RELUCTANT TO GIVE MORE." UNICEF SPOKESMAN SAID POPULATION FUNDS INSUFFICIENT AND URGED AFRICAN STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNFAP. LATTER REMARK BROUGHT REMINDER THAT SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD EXPRESS OPINIONS ONLY ON THEIR AREA OF COMPETENCE.

9. FATHER ARTHUR MCCORMACK, CONSULTANT TO WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, MADE EXPLANATORY INTERVENTIONS WHICH WERE WELL RECEIVED AND KEPT DEBATE ON TRACK. BOTH HIS AND FAO'S INTEREST IN HAVING FOOD WOVEN INTO PLAN OF ACTION, HOWEVER, FELL ON FALLOW GROUND. THE OAU REPRESENTATIVE WAS THE ONLY AFRICAN WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BRINGING FOOD SITUATION INTO PLAN. THE AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS WERE CLEARLY UNWILLING TO ENTER ANY OTHER FIELD OR PROPOSE NEW LANGUAGE. THE OBSERVER'S SUGGESTION THAT THE PLAN INCLUDE QUANTITATIVE POPULATION TARGETS FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS GENERAL MATERNAL MORTALITY LEVELS WAS NOTED AS INTERESTING, BUT THE AFRICAN DELEGATES CLEARLY WANTED NO PART OF "TELLING THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHAT TO DO." MATERNAL MORTALITY WAS SIMPLY IGNORED. UN POPULATION DIVISION EGIJU ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE TRIED TO REVIVE INTEREST IN US CONCEPT OF TARGETS FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT DELEGATES REMAINED SHY OF THIS AREA.

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10. OAU REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSED FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION WHICH WAS ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY ON LAST DAY OF CONFERENCE:

"THIS CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT, BOTH SECRETARIATS OF ECA AND OAU RENDER SERVICES TO AFRICAN DELEGATIONS ATTENDING WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BUCHAREST IN AUGUST 1974 DURING PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE SESSIONS IN ORDER TO HARMONIZE THEIR VIEWS TO ADOPT ONE AFRICAN STAND AND CONVENE OTHER GROUPS OF THIRD WORLD WHEN NECESSARY." (COMMENT: OAU REPRESENTATIVE WAS FROM SOCIAL AFFAIRS SECTION OF OAU, IS ALGERIAN, AND A PERSISTENT PARTICIPANT IN AFRICAN POPULATION MEETINGS. OAU RATHER THAN ECA MAY WELL TAKE LEADERSHIP IN ANY AFRICAN BLOC-BUILDING AT BUCHAREST.)

11. EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN DEMOGRAPHERS MAY BE CALLED IN 1975 TO DISCUSS IMPACT OF PLAN OF ACTION IN AFRICA. AS FOR REGULAR BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, SENEGAL OFFERED TO HOST. FOR BOTH, APPEALS FOR FUNDING TOUNFPA REPRESENTATIVE WERE MADE. REPRESENTATIVE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO EITHER, BUT, UNFPA GAINED FURTHER FAVOR AS OBVIOUS SOURCE OF FUNDS.
WYMAN

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